

## Message Text

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61  
ORIGIN XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /051 R

DRAFTED BY: XMB:RRSIMONINI/SLV

APPROVED BY: EB/IFD/ODF RASWART

XMB: RDCRAFTON

XMB: EJO'CONNOR

ARA/NC: JWSMONANDRES

----- 104528

R 221338Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO AMCONSUL MARACAIBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN

SUBJECT: RE: PERFORACIONES ALTA MAR, C.A. - EXIMBANK DIRECT  
CREDIT 3406 AND GUARANTEE 3407

REF: CARACAS 8644

1. AS DISCUSSED DURING VISIT OF ROBERT SIMONINI IN MAY TO CARACAS  
AND MARACAIBO, EXIMBANK HAS OUTSTANDING A LOAN AND GUARANTEE TOTAL-  
LING \$650,000 TO PERFORACIONES ALTA MAR, C.A. INTEREST IS BEING  
PAID MONTHLY BUT NO PRINCIPAL PAYMENT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED SINCE  
JANUARY, 1975 WHEN THE TWO ALTAMAR DRILLING RIGS STOPPED WORKING  
DUE TO A LOSS OF CONTRACTS.

2. EXIMBANK HAS BEEN CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF  
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JOHN ASKEW REPORTED REF TEL AND THE ALLEGED BRIBING OF GOVERNMENT

OFFICIALS AND ITS EFFECT ON ALTAMAR OPERATIONS. AN ARTICLE IN THE JULY 15 ISSUE OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (PAGE 22) STATES THAT A VENEZUELAN JUDGE HAS ORDERED THE ARREST OF SEVEN PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE CASE INCLUDING JOHN ASKEW.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S/COUNSULATE'S COMMENTS ON THESE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY MIGHT AFFECT (A) JOHN ASKEW, (B) THE OPERATIONS OF ALTAMAR, (C) ALTAMAR'S OBLIGATIONS TO EXIMBANK AND (D) THE DISPOSITION OF ALTAMAR'S ASSETS INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPROPRIATION IN THE EVENT MR. ASKEW IS ACTUALLY ARRESTED AND CONVICTED. ROBINSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, LOANS, DEBT REPAYMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JUL 1976  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE181250  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** XMB:RRSIMONINI/SLV  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760283-0323  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 CARACAS 8644  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>  
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04 MAY 2006

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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RE: PERFORACIONES ALTA MAR, C.A. - EXIMBANK DIRECT CREDIT 3406 AND GUARANTEE 3407  
**TAGS:** EGEN, OTRA, XMB  
**To:** CARACAS  
**Type:** TE  
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